



**Cogswell Spring Water Works
Water Commission Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2021**

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert, Chairman; Bill Hall, Commissioner; Jeff Connor, Commissioner; Norm Bumford, Superintendent

Guests: Ryan Bumford, Chief Operator – Selectwoman Tia Hooper

Recording Secretary: Kelly McCutcheon

Special meeting called for 5pm today to discuss two topics. Chair Gilbert opened the meeting to discuss first the ISO (Insurance Services Office) meeting with Chair Gilbert, the Town Administrator, and Fire Chief Morse. The Fire Water Department will coordinate with the Fire Department contractors and WSO to test 16 fire hydrants which ISO has granted more time to complete. The funds for testing the hydrants will not be coming from the Water Department budget or Fire Department budget, but from the Board of Selectmen's budgets.

Selectwoman Hooper stated for a meeting to meet the emergency definition there needs to be an immediate risk to life or property, otherwise the meeting must be posted for at least 24 hours. (The meeting was announced at the Selectman meeting last night and had been emailed to the Town Administrator to be posted yesterday morning to meet the deadline).

Selectwoman Hooper's objection was noted and the meeting continued since the cost of materials will not be decreasing anytime in the near future and construction is already under way.

Superintendent Norm Bumford stated that from the time the initial material was ordered the price of materials have sky rocketed and the Circle Street project will cost nearly an additional \$16,000 pipe material cost. Currently there is not enough pipe available in stock to complete the extra 250ft.

If Superintendent Bumford receives permission to execute the purchase order, the supplier will be cleaned out of pipe as will the Water Department stash of 10inch pipes to complete the 250ft of pipe work. Selectwoman Hooper asked why the expansion was happening.

Commissioner Connor stated the expansion is to make more loops in the water flow for better service to users while also positioning ahead for the future when NEC (New England College) is ready to expand their athletics facility.

The only way to expand without impacting the wetlands, Superintendent Bumford spoke with the Engineer from the firm completing NEC's new gym project, and they would like to continue the waterline from the hydrant. NEC will need to be contacted to find out if they will run the line thru as part of the project.

Selectwoman Hooper stated it had come up with the building of Dollar General and expanding the water lines, which the Planning Board puts the cost on the applicant who developing and asked if the conversation can be had with NEC. Superintendent Bumford stated that NEC traditionally has paid over the years to install the lines on campus which has no impact on users since NEC pays for it and it benefits the town. Selectwoman Hooper stated the 250ft will impact users. Commissioner Connor stated the 250ft is only happening because the Highway Department is digging up & paving the road and requested if any subgrade work to be completed prior to paving.

Chair Gilbert stated he spoke with the Financial Director and that there is enough money in the expendable fund to use without the department going into the red and there are enough funds that there will not be an impact on the users, if the materials are purchased today at the quoted prices from this morning.

There was discussion regarding one of the existing in valves. The oldest valve serves no functional purpose and should be removed and replaced with a spool piece.

Commissioner Hall asked if there was enough material for the first section of 300ft; there is enough material including valves and fittings. Commissioner Hall asked when the Town will be paving. Selectwoman Hooper stated she will contact the road agent and find out.

Commissioner Hall stated there has not been much corroboration or planning on the Highway Department side for what improvements need to be made. Selectwoman Hooper stated it was voted on at Town Meeting that all of Circle Street would be done. Commissioner Hall attended Town Meeting and it was not clearly stated at Town Meeting. Selectwoman Hooper stated she will have the Road Management Committee send the Water Commission reports from the Road Department with their paving projects.

Superintendent Bumford stated the price of pipe has gone up over \$4/per foot since the project was first quoted a month ago, resulting in a nearly \$16,000 material line increase for pipe alone. The original scope of the project also included replacement of the water main Infront of town hall where Park Street gets its water. This will eliminate the 4 taps and provide better flow but currently will cost \$12,000 to get over from Park Street from the lawn. The money will come from the expendable funds pending Commission approval.

Commissioner Connor stated with the road already dug up it makes sense to just do it now before material cost go up more. Chair Gilbert and Commissioner Hall agreed.

Commissioners asked Norm to talk to Jeff Martin regarding pricing for 4inch or 6 inch pipe and if it is more cost effective to push all the way across the green to 114 or to open cut across the green.

Commissioner Connor asked Selectwoman Hooper about the monument in front of town hall slated for removal. She stated Dan Higginson plans to flip it 180degrees. Superintendent Bumford stated there are granite slabs on top of the water main where it looks like the monument is to be moved. Selectwoman Hooper stated she will speak with the Beautification Committee and find out the new location of the monument. Superintendent Bumford requested the Beautification Committee wait to move the monument until the Water Department has completed their work in addition to not placing the monument directly on top of the water main, preventing access and routine maintenance. Selectwoman Hooper will pass along the request.

FINAL

Chair Gilbert moved to proceed with purchasing material at the new quoted cost. Commissioner Connor seconded. Motion carried 2-0-1 (Hall).

Chair Gilbert moved to adjourn. Commissioner Connor seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6pm.